

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:PJOHNSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 304175 TOSEC 250060

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM MEXICO DATED DECEMBER 30, 1975 SENT
SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO CITY 11410

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MX

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA RESIGNS

1M MEXICO CITY RADIO PROGRAMS WERE INTERRUPTED EARLY
THIS EVENING TO ANNOUNCE RESIGNATION OF FOREIGN SECRETARY
EMILIO RABASA. NO EXPLANATION WAS GIVEN. FOREIGN SECRE-
TARIAT OFFICIAL WHO CONFIRMED RESIGNATION TO EMBOFF WAS
SIMILARLY NON-COMMITTAL CONCERNING REASONS, BUT SAID EX-
PLANATION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

2. LIMITED REACTION AS YET AVAILABLE REFLECTS LACK OF
INFORMATION AND SURPRISE. THOUGH RECURRENT RUMORS OF
RABASA'S IMPENDING RESIGNATION HAVE BEEN HEARD OVER PAST
YEAR AND A HALF, NOTHING EVER CAME OF THESE, AND AS
RECENTLY AS RABASA'S RETURN FROM ISRAEL DAYS AGO
HE SAID HE HAD NO PLANS TO RESIGN. FOREIGN DIPLOMATS
REACTED TO RESIGNATION WITH GENERALLY
SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE THAT RABASA HAD FAITHFULLY CARRIED
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OUT TASKS ENCHARGED HIM BY ERRATIC AND IMPULSIVE PRESIDENT.

MEXICAN MILITARY OFFICER, ON OTHER HAND, WHEN APPRISED OF NEWS, REMARKED "QUE BUENO*" THIS VIEW MAY HAVE SOME GENERALITY IN COUNTRY WHERE "KING CAN DO NO WRONG" AND RABASA HAS CONSISTENTLY, WITHOUT COMPLAINT, PICKED UP PIECES FOLLOWING SOME NEW AND DRASTIC INITIATIVE BY ECHEVERRIA.

3. COMMENT: IT IS TOO SOON AND WE HAVE TOO LITTLE INFORMATION, AS YET, TO ANALYZE REASONS FOR RABASA'S RESIGNATION OR POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES THEREOF. IF RESIGNATION STEMS FROM EVENTS OF RECENT PAST, IT MAY BE THAT ECHEVERRIA'S DECISION TO SUPPORT "ZIONISM IS RACISM" RESOLUTION IN UNGA WAS STRAW THAT BROKE BACK OF RABASA, HIMSELF SON OF A JEWISH MOTHER. ON THE OTHER HAND, RABASA'S RESIGNATION MAY PORTEND SOME NEW INITIATIVE PLANNED BY ECHEVERRIA WHICH EVEN RABASA COULD NOT STOMACH. WHATEVER REASONS FOR RESIGNATION MAY BE MADE PUBLIC (E.G. HEALTH) EMBASSY WILL TRY TO GET AT TRUTH OF MATTER AND PROVIDE ANALYSIS. JOVA UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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